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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-first session
11 June to 6 July 2001
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-first session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(Item 4 (b))

Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

1. At its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 11 and 12 June 2001, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-eighth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (E/AC.51/2001/4).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report. Representatives of the Secretary-General responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The Committee expressed appreciation for the significant progress made through the joint efforts of UNDCP and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the implementation of a number of the Committee's recommendations made three years ago. Support to the International Narcotics Control Board and UNDCP as important

mechanisms against the world drug problem was reaffirmed. It was stressed that the report could be a useful tool for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its implementation of the resolution on strengthening UNDCP and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body.

4. It was observed that UNDCP needed to implement more fully CPC recommendations in a number of areas. Dissatisfaction was expressed with aspects of the drug control programme, which, it was felt, the Office of Internal Oversight Services should keep under review. It was stressed that the management of UNDCP is in need of attention. It was noted that 60 per cent of UNDCP funds for the implementation of operational activities are allocated to agencies of the United Nations and other organizations, which reflects the level of coordination with other relevant agencies. However, concern was expressed regarding the high number of references in the triennial review to a lack of coordination or collaboration in different areas, within UNDCP and with other relevant agencies. UNDCP is expected to coordinate its activities with relevant parties and collaborate in activities where it is efficient and effective to do so. It was stated that any review of programme priorities and the evaluation of programme results should be done in collaboration with participating partners. The view was expressed that the publication of two reports on the world drug situation, as reported in paragraph 6 of the evaluation report, represents a duplication of efforts.

5. Concern was expressed that a number of programmes in the areas of demand reduction, monitoring and elimination of illicit crops have not received the expected voluntary contributions. The substantive service provided by UNDCP to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly will be taken into account. It was noted that UNDCP had met the expectations of the special session in designing new programmes to address the drug problem. It was underlined that, regarding priority setting and the funding of activities raised in paragraph 34 of the evaluation report, UNDCP is mainly funded through voluntary contributions, and that the impact of this mode of funding should be taken into account.

6. The view was expressed that the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations had been requested by CPC before the twentieth special session, and that this element should have been reflected in the report. The main thrust of the review was to closely monitor the consequences of merging the drug control and crime prevention programmes and to evaluate the possible synergies.

7. The view was expressed that the criticism in paragraphs 26, 27, 28, 30 and 31 of the evaluation report, regarding specialized information and the formulation of strategies, refers mainly to the methodological approach rather than to the different roles of the relevant elements involved in the drug control programme.

8. It was noted that, regarding the issue of the collection and processing of information, which is one of the problems raised in the evaluation report, the Commission has taken steps to streamline the questionnaires sent to Governments.

9. Concern was expressed that UNDCP, in reporting on national trends, has used data drawn from sources other than the national official data reported to the programme.

10. The recommendations were not in bold as requested by the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the latest being its resolution 55/222. Doubt was expressed on the mandate that authorizes UNDCP to review and evaluate national and multilateral legislations, as highlighted in recommendation 2.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee took note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-eighth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (E/AC.51/2001/4).

12. The Committee reiterated its recommendations at its thirty-eighth session on the in-depth evaluation of UNDCP, and drew the attention of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the governing body of UNDCP, to considering and following up these recommendations.

13. The Committee encouraged UNDCP to further strengthen its efforts to ensure the availability of funding for the implementation of its programmes.